



IMAGES

Vol. 10, No. 1
Spring 1996

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE ALUMNI OF REDEEMER COLLEGE

Working women: home as career

ALISON GRESIK, (95)

Social opinion about home-makers has done an about-face during the last forty years or so. Once praised for their role as full-time mothers, some women now find themselves accused of failing to contribute economically and vocationally. Fortunately, this is not the general climate in Christian circles, where families more often enjoy the support and encouragement of their communities.

Redeemer graduates are no strangers to the world of parenting, and while nothing can totally prepare them for the unique joys and responsibilities of that task, the time they spent at university has proven more helpful than one might think. Certainly there are the practical benefits, especially for those who have gone through the education program. But there's more -- Miriam Verburg (Vanderwerf '93) found that the social challenges she faced at Redeemer help her relate to her two children, Jared and Hannah. "I was somewhat unsure of myself when I came to Redeemer," says Miriam, "and I've since learned to be confident about what I can do, which includes raising children. And having lived with different kinds of people means I'm more sensitive to my kids' own personalities."

Redeemer has added a philosophical aspect to full-time parenting for Denise Dykstra (Grootenboer '87), who values the Reformed worldview because "it em-

Continued on page 3

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SEP 12 1996



Denise and Phil Dykstra with children Laura, David and Brianne.

Board begins plans for Homecoming

1996 marks the Tenth Anniversary of the Class of 86 -- Redeemer's first graduating class. The Alumni Board and the College are working together to organize festivities celebrating the inaugural of what will hopefully be an annual event. Ruth Ann Schuuringa, representing the Board, and Wendy Fennema (Ritskes) a representative of the Class of 86, will serve on a committee planning the events, scheduled for **Saturday, Sept. 28**. Look to further issues of *Images* for more details. If you have any suggestions for this celebration, please send them to the Alumni Af-

fairs Office at Redeemer.

Besides Homecoming, the Board is involved in many other projects, much of which is done at the committee level. Currently, committees are working to:

- Revise the application process for the Alumni Leadership Award, making the criteria clearer for applicants and adjudicator;
- Create a pamphlet/brochure that briefly describes the work of the Alumni Association and Alumni Board;
- Review the Alumni Board's 5 Year Plan;

Continued on page 2

IMAGES

is the newsletter of the Redeemer College Alumni Association and is published four times a year by Redeemer College, 777 Hwy. 53 E., Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4 (905) 648-2131
E-Mail: images@redeemer.on.ca Editor: Tim Wolfert, Layout: David Raakman. Circulation: 800. Address all correspondence to the Alumni Affairs Coordinator: Tim Wolfert.

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EDITORIAL

Using education in different ways

JACQUELINE DERAAF (KODDE) '91

A graduate of Redeemer's Combined Education program, Jacquie is a full-time, stay-at-home mother. She and her husband Kevin (90) are ministering in their first congregation in Owen Sound, ON. They have two children -- Brendan (3), and Lauren (18 months).

If I'm completely honest, there are times, between the seemingly constant changing of diapers, clamouring of little voices, and wiping of spills that I wonder if the time and money that I spent at Redeemer were worth it; if my own career aspirations are lost in the shadow of my husband's prominent position as a pastor. But most often, I revel in the unique joys and challenges each day brings.

I really believe that God has called Kevin and I into this task together. Kevin's encouragement of my gifts and interests, combined with his home-office and flexible schedule allow me ample opportunity to be involved in ministry beyond the home. Coffee Break, Bible Studies, prayer ministry, making banners and Calvinettes have been real outlets for me to challenge myself, grow as an individual, and use my gifts as responsibly as I can. I've also been able to use my education directly, in the things I do with our children and by volunteering at our local Christian school.

Perhaps if some of the variables were different -- had I studied something even less applicable to my current situation, or if Kevin and I were not involved in min-



The DeRaaf family

istry, with the time, energy and whole-hearted support that requires of me as well -- I'd feel differently.

But I'm as glad to be a Redeemer alumnae now as I was in May, 1991, before I knew where my career plans would lead. My college years gave me far more than just a teaching certificate. They gave me gifts and experiences which work together to help me view with a broad and rich perspective my present "career" -- one which our society often denounces as limiting and stifling.

I praise God for leading me to where I am today, and blessing me with the joys and fulfilment of my present involvements and responsibilities. Perhaps the Lord will open the door for me to have my own classroom someday. But whether that becomes a reality or not, I am confident that "He who began a good work in (me) will carry it on to completion.." (Phil. 1:6).

Looking for a way to respond?

Images welcomes your feedback on this, or any other article. Please address any comment that you have to the Editor at the address listed on the front page.

We are also looking for alumni to submit articles for future issues of *Images*. Some of the topics that we hope to look at

in the future include employment outside of the area which alumni studied and underemployment among alumni. If you would like to contribute to one of these topics, or if you have a suggestion for a topic that relates to the Redeemer alumni experience, please contact the Editor.

Board members

Continued from page 1

- Plan for an alumni-specific fundraising project.

The Alumni Board next meets on March 22, and then again on June 14. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, or would like to address the Board, please contact Tim Wolfert at Redeemer, or any of the Board Members listed below. We appreciate your feedback and your involvement.

The Redeemer College Alumni Association Board of Directors -- 1995/96

President Joy Miedema (88)

Vice-President Mark Mantel (89)

Secretary Gary Miedema (93)

Members-at-Large Wendy Bulthuis (x92)

Alison Gresik (95)

Rob Janssens (92; BCEd, 93)

Sonya Oegema (92)

Ruth Ann Schuringa (89)

Deanna Van Dijk (91)

Board of Governors Representative Helen Vreugdenhil (87)

Academic Council Representative Al Bakker (90)

I beg your pardon...

The Internet is a wonderful vehicle for exchanging information. For those of us who are cybernetically challenged however, it is just one more way to lose messages. Tim Fisher has the dubious distinction of being the first person to have his e-mail message to me misplaced. Tim is now a Customer Specialist for Mitra Imaging in Waterloo. His e-mail address is "tim@mitra.com". Tim and Jeanne can also be reached at 102 Northlake Dr., Waterloo, ON, N2V 1N1.

And in a similar vein, there is, unfortunately, no friendly postal person to direct your mail to the correct destination if you miss the address by a character or two. As some of you have already noticed, my e-mail address in the last issue of *Images* was incorrect -- it is "wolfert@redeemer.on.ca", not "twolfert@redeemer.on.ca".

Many blessings gained from working at home

Continued from page 1

phasizes that we can worship God in all things. Knowing that reminds me that my worth lies in more than just changing diapers."

Reasons for working at home abound, one of them being the economic reality that it is often difficult for both spouses to find jobs in a certain area. And of course, for mothers such as Carine Schuurman



Derek and Carine Schuurman with Helena and John.

(Oussoren '90, BCED '91), the complexities of juggling family life and work outside the home are unimaginable. "When I was teaching and Derek was working, our lives were so busy and chaotic. Even now when I substitute teach, it's a real challenge to get two children ready in the morning so I can get to school. I think my staying home is much easier on family life."

There are other dimensions to life besides children, and Annie Oegema (Vandermeij '87) enjoys the challenge of

serving as treasurer on the local Christian school board. She also tries to keep up her French, which was her major, by reading and watching French television. Before the birth of her two sons, Annie did credit and

collection work which took advantage of her bilingualism. "I do plan to go back to work when the boys are older," says Annie, "although not necessarily in the same field, be-

cause my interests have broadened. I do not want to rush it though--those things can wait."

Fathers shouldn't be left out of the equation--parenting is seen as a partnership in many families, and dad often picks up where mom leaves off at the end of the day. Julie Anne Vanderlinde (Kooy '94) is appreciative of her husband Jim ('92, BCED '93)'s efforts -- "He's very involved with our eight-month old, Thomas, and we really work as a team.

When he gets home from teaching, he takes over, bathing, feeding, and getting Thomas to sleep."

One of the things these women have in common, it is that full-time parenting is definitely a choice for them, not a sacrifice. "I consider looking after Thomas a career," says Julie Anne, "Not everyone wants to stay home--it's a

personal thing." Miriam puts it this way: "I've always wanted to be a wife and a mother. I would find it too stressful to leave my children to go to work; as a mom I would hate to miss out on their firsts."

And as far as the stigma of being "just" a home-maker, Carine says, "In general, society doesn't value this work as it should, and sometimes I do feel apologetic or defensive. But if I focus on why



Jim, Julie and Thomas Vanderlinde.

I'm here, and I draw on the support of my husband and my community, then I can be proud of what I do."



Mike ('87), Annie, Cameron and Ian Oegema.



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PERSONAL TOUCH

▶ **Diana (Pool, x84) and William Schenk** are thrilled to announce the birth of their son Andrew Timothy, born January 18, 1996. He was welcomed by his brothers and sister, Jonathan, Michael, Alicia and Daniel. William and Diana continue to farm beef and poultry at RR#3, Wyoming, ON, N0N 1T0, (519) 845-3208.

▶ **Michael Brinkman (95)** has a job teaching English in Japan and will be there until the end of June 1996. Then he hopes to attend teacher's college if he gets accepted. He is enjoying the Japanese culture and is thankful for the many blessings he receives. His address is 3-1-13 Hamacho, Odawara-ski Kanagawa-ken, Japan, T250.

▶ **Walt (86) and Ellen (Rhebergen, x86) Vanderwerf** are moving from Edson, Alberta to St. Catharines, Ontario. While they do not have a permanent address yet, mail can be sent to them c/o Maranatha CRC, 301 Scott St., St. Catharines, ON, L2N 1J4.

▶ **Keith (93) and Miriam (Vanderwerf, 93) Verburg** are grateful to God for blessing them with the birth of their daughter Hannah Michelle, born November 17, 1995. She is a sister to Jared. They live at 345 Belsyde Ave. #303, Fergus, ON, N1M 2Y2.

▶ **Albert (90) and Glenda (Claus, x91) Wielinga** are dad and mom to Caralie (3, on April 1) and Alexander (1). God has also blessed them with a third baby due in May. Glenda stays home to play with and care for the little ones while Albert is a Sales and Customer Relations Manager for a Woodstock-based transportation company. Their new address is #7-179 Ferguson Dr., Woodstock, ON, N4V 1A5, (519) 539-7909.

▶ **Christopher Vriend (x88)** was accepted into the University of Waterloo School of Architecture where he received a Bachelor of Environmental Studies in pre-professional architecture in 1992 and a Bachelor of Architecture in 1994. In his graduating year, he was chosen to receive the Ron Sims Purchase Prize for a series of twelve computer generated drawings of his thesis and the Fifth-Year Technology Prize for the highest standing in the Technology stream of courses. Since his graduation from Waterloo, Chris has moved to Toronto where he works for Reich & Petch Architects Inc. as well as working on his own.

▶ **Angela (VanLuyk, 87) and Casey Boers** welcomed their fourth child, Michael Adrian, on January 9, a little brother for Jason, Sara and Jacqueline. They live at 1028 Willowbrook Rd., Burlington, L7T 3C7, (905) 637-9640.

▶ **Kim (Visser, x88) Nystrom** was married July 30, 1994 to Mark Nystrom. June 6, 1995 they were blessed with the birth of their first child, Elissa Ashley. Their address is Box 1220 Terrace, B.C., V8G 5P7, (604) 638-7825.

▶ **Joanne Brown (94)** accepted a teaching position at St. Paul's Christian School in Barrie, Ontario after graduating from the education program at Brock University in May '95. She is teaching Math and Science to grades 7 to 10. She lives at RR

1, Oro Station ON, L0L 2E0, (705) 487-6369.

▶ **Richard (87) and Susan (Versteeg, 86) Wikkerink** are pleased to make a belated birth announcement for their daughter, Selena Faith, born May 19, 1995. Selena is a much-loved sister to Spencer and Kristin. Susan is teaching grade 7 and 8 French at Calvin Christian (Hamilton) and Richard is Assistant Registrar at Redeemer. Their address is 17 Jamieson Dr., Caledonia, ON N3W 2K2.

Friends, Alumni, Labourers.... Send us your Business Cards! AND YOU COULD WIN A REDEEMER FLEECE SWEATSHIRT!

If you do not have a business card, make your own!

The Alumni Affairs Office is collecting alumni business cards for a display. Send in your business card by April 30 and your name will be entered in a draw to win a Redeemer College fleece pullover, courtesy of the Bookstore.

Write down your **NAME**
EMPLOYER (if applicable)
and **JOB TITLE**

Be creative... perhaps you are a:
DOMESTIC ENGINEER,
INFANT CARE WORKER,
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POST-LICENTIATE PUPIL

Include your
Street, City, Province, Postal Code, Phone, Fax, E-mail

Use a 3.5" x 2" card (as shown)

*All cards will be eligible for the draw but we will not display your card if you wish.
Draw will be made May 1, 1996.*

NEWS OF INTEREST

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Do you want your address published? ☐ Yes ☐ No

News of interest _____

